1996 captioned "DC&P may bring back five drugs on controlled list";

(b) if so, whether this step is being taken on the basis of abnormal increase of prices of medicines based on these drugs;

(c) the price of each formulation based on each drug during 1994 and the present price alongwith the percentage increase on each strength and pack;

(d) whether the prices of decontrolled medicines have gone up from 50 per cent to 400 per cent after the announcement of Price Control Order; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Of the five bulk drugs mentioned in the news item, Metronidazole, Doxycycline and Pentazocine are already under price control under DPCO, 1995 however, in the cases of last two drugs, the bulk drug manufacturer has been granted exemption on the basis of developing process and technology through own R&D efforts in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1995. Nifadipine is not under price control under DPCO, 1995 nor it was so under DPCO, 1987. In case of Voveran the bulk drug concerned is Diclofenac which has gone out of price control under DPCO '95 and in this case it is observed that prices charged by various formulators are comparable. In this context it may be mentioned that Small Scale Units are exempt from price control, except for ceiling packs, and that all formulators of bulk drugs, which are not under price control, are free to determine their own prices. The Government would intervene only if prices charged are unreasonable and not justifiable.

Recognition to Kol Tribe as Scheduled Tribe

493. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kol tribe of Allahabad, Mirzapur and Sono Bhadra district are recognised as Scheduled Tribe;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have adopted different norms for recognition of this tribe;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has sent any recommendation to the Centre regarding recognition of this tribe as Scheduled Tribe; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir. However, the Kol community has been specified as a Scheduled Caste in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) According to the provisions of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are not empowered to confer on any community the status of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. Such status can be accorded only by an Act of Parliament.

(d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh have recommended that the Kol community in that State be recognised as a Scheduled Tribe instead of as a Scheduled Caste.

Joint venture in Mining with Australia

494. SHRI SARDA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish joint venture with Australia in the field of mining;

(b) whether any joint venture agreement has been signed by Government for that purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) While some Australian mining companies have proposed the establishment of joint ventures with Indian companies in the mining sector. Government itself does not contemplate its participation in any joint venture with Australia in the field of mining.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Panchayat Elections

495. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where no Panchayat Election has been conducted as per the proisions of the Constitution; and

(b) the action taken against such violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Elections to all levels of Panchayats are due in Bihar, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Elections to District Level Panchyats are due in Goa and Manipur. Elections are also due in hilly districts and to the positions of Chair-persons of intermediate level in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The matter is being actively pursued with the defaulting States.

Rural Water Supply Mission

496. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand the Rural Water Supply Mission;

(b) whether it is a fact that many areas in Andhra Pradesh are without potable water; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure proper water supply in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 31.1.1996 there are 334 not covered habitations in Andhra Pradesh. All State Governments have been requested to cover all not covered habitations with safe drinking water source by 15.8.1997. Central Funds are provided to State Governments under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to implement Rural Drinking Water Programme.

Amount spent on Welfare Schemes in Uttar Pradesh

497. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent during the last three years, so far, towards Welfare Scheme in Uttar Pradesh State, District-wise;

(b) whether these Welfare Schemes have given special attention/priority to backward and most backward classes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the Welfare Schemes specially earmarked for backward and most backward classes of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): A statement showing the amounts released in the last